

THE LOWER PALAEOOLITHIC CULTURE GARIKAPADU IN THE NAGULERU VALLEY GUNTUR DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT : Studies related to the stonage remains of the nagarjuna konda and the adjacent areas of the naguleru valley in guntur district have provide good in sights in to the life and culture of the stone age hunter gatherers.but the prevelent appoches to pre history was then a matter of discovery and typological discription. But recent studies in stone age archeology have incorporated many dependable modeles for explaining the culture. Viewed frome the present day analytical approch to archeology.the primary aim of the present investigation in the garikapadu to identified the cultural succession. It is to intended to understand the status of stonage. I was inspired to take up detailed investigation in the garikapadu.

Key words: Handaxes, Cleavers, Scrapers, Retouched flakes, acheulean culture

GENERAL

Andhra Pradesh has been a veritable ground for investigation related to Stone Age remains. Right from the beginning of twentieth century investigation done by foreign and Indian scholars to bring to light the Stone Age cultures of the Region.

Previous work

Exploration conducted in search of prehistoric antiquities revealed that the stone age remains occur in Andhra Pradesh, as elsewhere, along perennial water courses, on the slopes of the hills and in colluvial and alluvial deposits. In Andhra Pradesh evidences about the acheulean occupations have come to light from the literal zone along the east coast. The Rock terrains distributed across the Deccan Plateau and the alluvial belts planting the major and minor river courses.

During the excavations at Nagarjuna Konda, Soundara Rajan K.V (1958) reported a number of stonage locations in the region submerged by the Nagarjunasagar reservoir. During the investigations he reported stonage sites close to Karampudi on the Naguleru valley which lies adjacent to the Nagarjuna Konda valley. In this contest I was inspired to take up detailed investigations of the Naguleru valley and adjacent areas for the pre Neolithic finds spot. The primary aim of the present investigation in the Garikapadu is to record pre neo-lithic stonage succession of the Naguleru valley. I found artifacts indicated to the lower Paleolithic culture.

THE LOWER PALAEOOLITHIC CULTURE

GARIKAPADU

North Latitude : 16 deg 19'

Eastern Longitude: 79 deg 41'30''

Contour : 184 mts.

Sample Area : 100 x 100 mts.

Garikapadu is a major village located on the right bank of Naguleru it is one of the roads leading from Vinukonda to Karampudi Via Kondramulta. A few hill streams originated in the local hills covered by Bollapalli reserved forest, join together to form into 3 affluent tributary streams to the Naguleru with the result that the vicinities of Garikapadu lying to the south and southwest have been subjected to sheet erosion. Occasionally the land form is denudated resulting in deep gulling. On the whole the landform shows the appearance of a bad land topography. It is further observed that the stream let that lies to the southwest of Garikapadu has cut down its bed up to the bed rock exposing cliff sections which vary in height between 2 to 3 meters. A close study of the sections here indicated the following strata from bottom upwards. The exposed portions of the bed rock show that the local rock formations were subjected to physical weathering followed by leaching. The portions of the exposed bed rock were subjected to comminution. The super imposed deposits constituted fragments of rock waste with occasional gravel lenses. The size of the gravel is medium to coarse. Across the gravel lenses pre historic artefacts are collected sporadically. That it may be considered the gravel lenses are artefactiferous. It should be noted the artefacts from the gravel exposures of the cliff sections do not show any sign of rolling indicating that they have not been transported through long distance, The super imposed layer is a sandy red earth of fluvial origin.

For the purpose of the detailed study artefacts from an area of 100x100 meters have been collected across an area which bears the minimum impact of denudation. It is to the north of the artefactiferous area that the main stream of Naguleru enters the region from west to east and there after sharply meanders to the north. The vicinity of Garikapadu retain patches of open scrub jungle which intermittently merge with dense mixed jungle.

It is slightly to the north-west of Garikapadu that the main stream of the Naguleru widens its flow channel, thereby accumulating quantities of coarse sands across the bed. To the east of Garikapadu one of the above mentioned hills streams was bunded to form a small reservoir.

I was collected palaeolithic artefacts assigned to the achelean order, from Garikapadu. The artefacts from Garikapadu were classified by the explorer as pebble tools which included chopper and chopping tools, hand axes, cleavers, discoids, knives, scrapers, Points, retouched flakes, blade flakes, broken hand axes, cores and fragments. The total number of artefacts collected 349.

Methodology

For achieving the two parts of the aim of our investigation explorations were conducted in the entire Garikapadu village in the Naguleru valley right from its origin till it meets with the River Krishna. In order to collect the samples of stone remains probabilistic sampling method was adopted. I was tried to collect data through small trenches. I was applied probabilistic sampling method for quick recovery of historic data. The artifacts so collected were examined for post depositional alterations and where ever possible the edge wear is examined under magnifying glass. For the artifact analysis numerical taxonomy is adopted for comparing the artifact assemblages culture wise Robinsons (1951) method of the matrix for agreement

scores is adopted. Also the method of proximity analysis suggested by the Collin Renfrew and Gene Stead (1969) was adopted.

Sl. No.	Types	No. of Total	PERCENTAGE	
			1 ST %	2 ND %
1.	Choppers	16	7.27	4.58
2.	Chopping tools	07	3.18	2.00
3.	Hand axes	93	42.27	26.64
4.	Cleavers	31	14.09	08.88
5.	Discoids	06	02.72	01.71
6.	Knives	32	14.54	09.16
7.	Scrapers	17	7.72	04.87
8.	Points	03	01.36	00.85
9.	Retouched flakes	15	06.81	04.29
	Sub-Total	220	99.96	
10.	Blade-flakes	11		03.15
11.	Flaks blanks	27		07.73
12.	Broken hand axes	05		01.43
13.	Cores	69		19.77
14.	Fragments	17		04.87
	Grand Total:	349		99.93

RESULT

In that result after applying the methodology of the Garikapadu industry on a typo technological basis the artefacts from the Garikapadu are assigned to the early and middle phases of the acheulean tradition.

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